



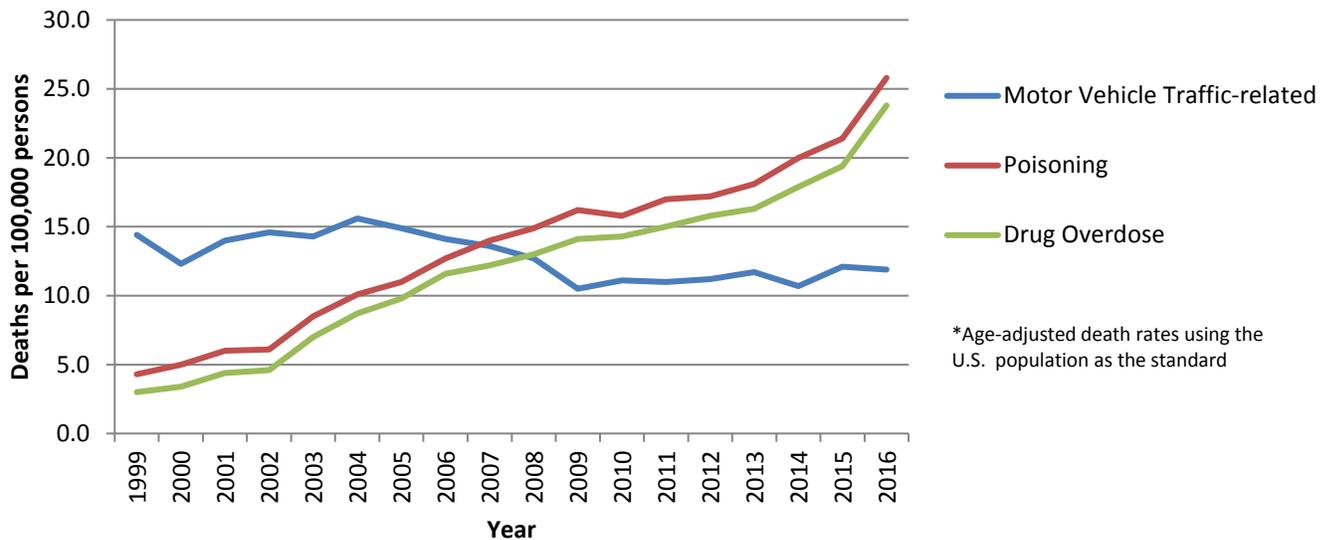
Indiana

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths 1999-2016

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana, and drugs cause 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, increased seven-fold since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2008 (Figure 1), and have continued to rise. In 2016, the poisoning death rate was 25.8 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 23.8 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 11.9 deaths per 100,000 persons. On a national level, from 2015 to 2016, the death rate from synthetic opioids other than methadone, which includes fentanyl, increased by 100% and heroin death rates increased by 19.5%.

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates. Indiana residents. 1999-2016



Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2016, drugs and medications-prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications, were the underlying cause of death for 92% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 86.6% were unintentional, 6% were suicide or intentional self-harm, and 7% had undetermined intent. The rate for males was 1.8 times higher than for females, and persons ages 24-34 had the highest rate of all age categories (53.3 per 100,000).

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Indiana residents, 2016

| | | Number | Percent | Rate per 100,000 persons |
|------------------------|---|--------|---------|--------------------------|
| Gender | Female | 559 | 36.8 | 16.6 |
| | Male | 959 | 63.2 | 29.3 |
| Age (in years)* | 15-24 | 143 | 9.4 | 15.2 |
| | 25-34 | 451 | 29.7 | 53.3 |
| | 35-44 | 336 | 22.1 | 41.0 |
| | 45-54 | 335 | 22.1 | 38.3 |
| | 55 and older | 250 | 16.5 | 13.8 |
| Intent | Unintentional (also known as "accidental") | 1315 | 86.6 | 19.8 |
| | Suicide | 91 | 6.0 | 1.4 |
| | Undetermined | 108 | 7.1 | 1.6 |

*0-14 age group not included due to small numbers.





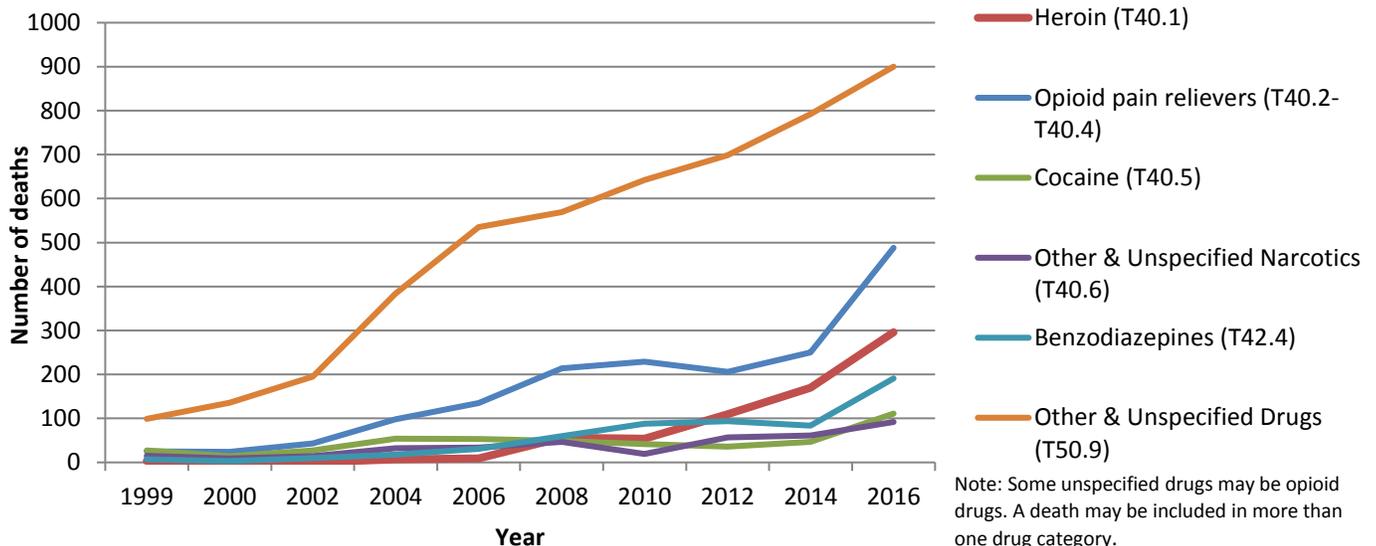
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Opioid Pain Relievers & Heroin Contribute to Drug Overdose Deaths

Any drug has the potential to be misused or abused and may be even more dangerous when used in combination with other drugs or alcohol. The three most commonly prescribed drugs that are abused are opioids, depressants and stimulants. Opioid pain relievers include natural and semi-synthetic opioids, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and tramadol. Deaths involving opioid pain relievers contributed to 488 (32%) of the 1,518 drug overdose deaths in 2016. These results may underestimate the burden of opioid deaths due to lack of drug specificity on death certificates. The number of heroin involved overdoses increased 24% percent from 2015 to 2016, and the number of synthetic opioid involved overdoses increased 154% percent from 2015-2016. This increase may be due to increased heroin and synthetic supply (cheaper and more accessible), widespread prescription opioid exposure, and increasing rates of opioid addiction.

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Indiana residents, 1999-2016



Addressing the Issue

The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention at the Indiana State Department of Health works to prevent injuries and create a healthier and safer Indiana.

Activities: CDC Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Prevention for States program combats the drug overdose epidemic with resources to maximize prescription drug monitoring programs, implement community interventions and conduct policy evaluations.

Surveillance: The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention conducts statewide PDO surveillance through analyzing data from death certificates, hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse is responsible for coordinating substance abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement through the state. The Commission went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, transitioning from and building on the work accomplished by the Governor’s Drug Task Force.

Resources

Proper disposal of unused medication through [Drug Take-Back Events](#) ensures unwanted or unneeded medications do not end up on the street or cause damage to the environment.

Indiana Poison Center: Helpline: 1-800-222-1222
<http://indianapoison.org/>

CDC Injury Center: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/>
ISDH Drug Overdose Prevention:
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/27358.htm>

INSPECT Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:
<http://www.in.gov/pla/inspect/>
Overdose Prevention Therapy-Indiana:
<https://optin.in.gov/>

Stats Explorer:
https://gis.in.gov/apps/isdh/meta/stats_layers.htm

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration— Find help and treatment:
<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help>